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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,405	11/30/2004	Wolfgang Demmer	9013.0099	2828

7590 09/29/2008  
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EXAMINER
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FERNANDEZ, SUSAN EMILY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1651

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/29/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



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### **DETAILED ACTION**

The amendment filed April 15, 2008, has been received and entered.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are cancelled.

Claims 11 and 13-16 are pending and examined on the merits to the extent they read on the elected subject matter and species.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grano et al. (International Journal of Artificial Organs, 2002, 25(4): 297-305) in view of Burtin et al. (US 6,248,238) and Bergmann (US 5,168,041).

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Grano et al. discloses a membrane loaded with antiproteases for reducing the active protease blood concentration (abstract), wherein a protease/antiprotease complex is formed upon contacting the membrane with a solution containing proteases (page 298, first column, first paragraph). An antitrypsin is immobilized via diazotization occurring through tyrosine residues (page 299, first column, first full paragraph and Figure 1). Thus, the protease inhibitor (antitrypsin) is coupled to the membrane body via functional groups, where nonionic chemical bonding occurs. Further still, it is noted that trypsin is a serine protease (page 300, second column, second paragraph under "Results").

Grano et al. differs from the claimed invention in that it does not expressly disclose a device having a housing with a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet comprising a plurality of membranes.

Burtin et al. discloses a medical apparatus for the extracorporeal treatment of blood or plasma, comprising a semi-permeable membrane with protease inhibitors (column 4, lines 34-36). The apparatus clearly comprises a housing having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet (see Figure 5).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have used the Grano membranes in a series in a medical apparatus for the extracorporeal treatment of blood. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this since Burtin et al. demonstrates that protease inhibitors on membranes in a housing with a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet is suitable for treatment of blood. Further more, the use of multiple membranes in a series would have ensured thorough reduction of the active protease blood concentration.

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Additionally, Grano et al. does not expressly disclose using different protease inhibitors in each of the membranes of the device, that each membrane contains two different protease inhibitors, or that the protease inhibitors are any of the compounds (pepstatin and the elected species) recited in instant claim 13.

Bergmann lists various protease inhibitors on Table 1 at column 4, where the table includes pepstatin and the elected species recited in instant claim 13.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have used different compounds as the protease inhibitors present in the membranes of the device, where the different compounds may be present in different membranes and/or combined with other protease inhibitors in the same membrane. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this in order to have separated a variety of proteases from a solution, or to have ensured that a specific protease is indeed separated from a solution. It would have been obvious to have used compounds recognized in the art as protease inhibitors, such as those listed in Table 1 at column 4 of Bergmann, in the device, as Grano et al. does not limit the protease inhibitor included in its membranes. Thus, claims 11 and 13-15 are also rendered obvious.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed April 15, 2008, with respect to rejections over the Charcosset reference have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 11, 13, and 16 over Charcosset et al. have been withdrawn.

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With respect to Grano et al, applicant asserts that Grano et al. does not teach any of the chemistry necessary to bind any of the four specific types of protease inhibitors which are recited in claim 11. However, since known chemical structures are being dealt with, the ability to bind the inhibitors to the membranes would have been within the purview of the skilled artisan. Moreover, it is even noted that the disclosure as filed does not describe the chemistry necessary to bind all four specific types of protease inhibitors recited in claim 11.

Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. No claims are allowed

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SUSAN E. FERNANDEZ whose telephone number is (571)272-3444. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Wityshyn can be reached on (571) 272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Leon B Lankford/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1651

Susan E. Fernandez  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1651

sef